GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1302
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
JAN KEROSENE YOJANA
Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Manvendra Singh Shri ;Munshiram Shri ;Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri ;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to start "Jan Kerosene Yojana" ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) the amount likely to be spent to implement the said scheme ;

(d) whether the Government has identified the States where this scheme is likely to be introduced ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented ?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. The objective of the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana which has been launched in 417 blocks as a pilot project is to revamp the PDS kerosene distribution network with a view to ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and, secondly, to thus cap, reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS SKO for adulteration.

The principal features of the Scheme for strengthening the PDS Kerosene distribution network are under :-

(i) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) will establish at least one Kerosene (SKO) dealership in each of the country's development blocks ;

(ii) In consultation with the District Administration and the wholesale dealer, about 5-10 sub-wholesale points will be located in each block;

(iii) There will be a dedicated fleet of tanker-trucks (TTs) for transportation of PDS kerosene to ensure widespread public information and transparency as these TTs will prominently display the special logo that is being devised for the dedicated fleet. It will be clearly written on the outside of the TT that it is transporting kerosene meant for the Public Distribution System;

(iv) To bring storage dispensing services at SKO dealerships at par with the modern facilities provided at petrol and diesel outlets by OMCs at their own expense, the Ministry's Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) will fund OMCs to ensure the installation of the following facilities at each of the dealerships covered under the pilot project :

storage tanks with a minimum capacity of 20 KLs

calibrated dispensing pumps

adequate number of barrels, appropriately decorated with the special logo, for the delivery of SKO to sub-wholesale points

one or more barrel sheds;

(v) Supplies from the depots of the OMCs to the wholesale storages and further up to sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the OMCs, who will provide an adequate number of barrels, decorated with the special logo, at the sub-wholesale point for the convenient and assured transportation of PDS SKO to the retail points. Similar logos will be displayed on vehicles transporting PDS SKO from wholesale to sub-wholesale points and from there to retail points at Fair Price Shops;

(vi) At each Fair Price Shop, PDS SKO will be stored in barrels with clearly identified logos which the general public can access to determine for themselves the balance availability of PDS SKO at that Fair Price Shop;

(vii) In consultation with State Governments, Panchayats and Gram Sabhas will be empowered to generally supervise the availability of PDS SKO at subsidised prices, and a reporting mechanism will be put in place for Panchayats / Gram Sabhas to report any deficiencies to the State Administration and the OMCs concerned.

The estimated expenditure on the Scheme is Rs. 696 crore.

It has been decided to implement the Scheme to begin with in up to 10% of the blocks of the country on pilot basis for a period of six months. Thereafter, the working of the Scheme would be assessed and based on the experience gained, the Government will consider scaling the Scheme to cover the entire country.

(d) to (f) : The pilot project has been launched effective 2nd October 2005. At present, the pilot project is being implemented in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory.